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(Begin Belt #12)

If it is not going to do this, then I am not in favor of it. I do not believe we need any limitations but if we have to have limitations, then this one on the operation of the budget would certainly be my preference. Because I do believe that that school board that I sit around the round table with every morning that I'm home are more capable of cutting taxes than I am. They sound far more conservative than I do. I'm pretty liberally usually up here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Once again we're trying to talk about the Frank Lewis amendment.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, I want to respond in reference to ceilings on state aid and I want Senator Carpenter to hear what I'm going to say, please. I have never been in favor of ceilings on state aid because I have felt that we should have local control. Now, in this case, we're only talking about a \$55 state....\$55 million state aid bill. And the maximum that will go to any school district is going to be somewhere between 30 and 35%, therefore, we don't need to be restricting those school boards. And so I'm in favor of the Lewis amendment. Now, the other question is, related to ceilings but I feel I should have an opportunity to respond. I'm in favor of state aid. I have a bill in this Legislature that will give state aid. But when state aid reduces some school districts to 19 mills and leaves other at 35 mills, that's not right. When state aid leaves some school districts paying only about \$100 property tax per pupil and others paying \$1,100 property tax per pupil, that's not right. And so if we had a state aid bill which was fair, I would vote for it and in my judgment, that state aid bill would never give more than 50% state aid to any school district. And therefore, we'd need no controls on the local school boards. I want local control along with our state aid bill. But if you give 84% of the operational cost, then you see, you've got to have limits but that's not in this bill. This bill is only the \$55 million bill, the amount of state aid we're now giving.

PRESIDENT: Now, are you all through discussing the Frank Lewis amendment? Senator Carpenter, did you want to be recognized to speak on

SENATOR CARPENTER: Only if the senator expected a reply from me. Okay.

PRESIDENT: Are you all through discussing Frank Lewis' amendment? Senator Keyes, your light is still on. Does that mean you want to be recognized again? All right, thank you. Senator DeCamp, are you all through. All right, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I hate to belabor a point but I do have a couple more questions for Senator Lewis.

PRESIDENT: All right, does Senator Lewis yield?